

27. You had a flood, I think, too, in 1907?—Yes, a summer flood.
 28. That was a general flood all over the province?—Yes.
 29. It flooded the Upper Waihou as well as the Ohinemuri?—Yes, a general flood.
 30. This last flood of a few weeks ago did not flood the Waihou River?—There was very little water in it.
 31. *The Chairman.*] Is any portion of your property drained to the Waihou?—No.
 32. The boundary is pretty close, is it not?—About a mile and a half away.
 33. *Mr. Flatman.*] Have you lost any cattle since the slime has come over the paddocks?—Yes, I have not had experience of any. I am told it is detrimental to cattle.
 34. Do you think it would affect the milk of a cow?—I have no doubt it would.

PAEROA, TUESDAY, 24TH MAY, 1910.

JAKOB BERTELTSEN examined. (No. 6.)

1. *Mr. Mueller.*] Your name is Jakob Bertelsen, and you have a leasehold interest in the Piraurahi No. 10 Block, with an area of 246 acres?—Yes.
 2. How much of that is affected by the floods?—The whole of it.
 3. Is there a silt-deposit upon your land?—Yes.
 4. What depth?—At the present time it varies a good deal. It runs from 2 ft. down to 6 in. Sometimes there is 4 ft.
 5. Where does that silt come from?—From the Ohinemuri River.
 6. How long have you been in occupation of that land?—About eleven years.
 7. During that time have you noticed that the floods have become more frequent recently?—Yes, in the last six years they have become pretty bad.
 8. Whereabouts on the Ohinemuri River is your property situated?—About a mile down the river.
 9. *The Chairman.*] You have no frontage on the river?—None in that block.
 10. How many chains back from the river are you?—About six.
 11. *Mr. Mueller.*] What is the state of the river-bed?—I have not examined the river-bed.
 12. Is there any silt in it?—Oh, yes!
 13. Is it navigable?—Yes; small steamers and barges go up there. If there is a flood the "Waimarie" and the "Taniwha" get up there easy enough.
 14. Do you recognize this photograph as a photograph of your property?—Yes. [Exhibit No. 7, *Auckland Weekly Graphic.*]
 15. Have you suffered damage on account of the silt?—I have, very much.
 16. How many cows did you milk, say, four years ago?—Four of five years ago I used to milk fifty cows.
 17. What did they bring in?—A couple of pounds a day.
 18. How many cows can you milk now?—I could not milk any.
 19. *Mr. Flatman.*] Is there any other stock running on your place?—No, it is covered with silt. There is no grass on the farm. I have a cow or two and a horse for household purposes, and I feed them on hard feed. I have another block that is not so subject to the floods. If I had not put the horses in there they would have died of the silt if they got too much of it.
 20. *Mr. Mueller.*] Years ago did you crop this land?—Yes, with all sorts of crops.
 21. What special crops did you get off it?—Oats and hay.
 22. You are unable to crop it now?—I would not try.
 23. For how long have you been unable to crop the land?—For the last three years—probably more. It is about three years since I had to dispose of all the cattle there.
 24. Have you lost any cattle through their being drowned or killed?—Yes. In the last fresh we lost two brood mares with foal and ten head of cattle.
 25. *The Chairman.*] How were they lost—drowned?—Yes, drowned, but not on this block, but on a block that adjoins Mr. Thorp's property—the Manuka Blocks Nos. 2 and 3.
 26. *Mr. Mueller.*] You have just leased the Manuka Block?—Yes. It is about 80 acres in area.
 27. When were the cattle lost?—At the end of March.
 28. What loss was that to you in money?—About £100.
 29. Did you lose any other goods or chattels?—Fifty or sixty fowls, and a lot of timber was swept away.
 30. *Mr. Mitchelson.*] Fencing?—Yes, all the fencing is levelled to the ground. All the posts are knocked down.
 31. *Mr. Mueller.*] On the 246 acres you had done a considerable amount of improvement?—Yes, it was practically in its natural state when I took it over.
 32. Did you fence it?—Yes; fenced, drained, and stumped part of it. There were no buildings on it.
 33. You brought this land into a state of cultivation?—Yes.
 34. Erected buildings?—Yes.
 35. That meant several years' work?—Yes, a good many years' work.
 36. What have you got for that time, labour, and money?—I have a lot of silt lying on the land.
 37. Are any of the improvements you put on the land of any use or value at the present time?—No, except the house I am living in. I am only killing time. It is no good to me.
 38. *The Chairman.*] Are you still paying your rent?—Yes, the landlord is still demanding his rent in the usual form